

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW PROGRAM FOR CLASSIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

1. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CONTACTED RECENTLY CONCERNING GENERAL QUESTION, "WHAT DO FOREIGN CONTRACTORS HAVE TO DO TO PRE-QUALIFY TO BID ON CONTRACTS?" IN MEETING WITH MAHMOUD TAIBA, DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FOR INDUSTRY AND ELECTRICITY, SUBJECT WAS BROACHED AND HE CONTRASTED THE METHOD UNDER WHICH CONTRACTORS NOW PRE-QUALIFY WITH WHAT THE SYSTEM WILL BE LIKE IN SIX MONTHS.

2. ACCORDING TO MR. TAIBA, THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS AS FOLLOWS: A. THE CONTRACTOR APPLIES TO THE CONCERNED MINISTRY (E.G., U.S. FIRM READS OF TENDER FOR TELEPHONE CABLE FOR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION; FKRM APPLIES DIRECTLY TO THAT MINISTRY PROVIDING DETAILS OF FIRM AS WELL AS

INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR TENDER); B. ONCE APPROVED AND REGISTERED BY THE MINISTRY, THE FIRM WILL BE QUALIFIED TO BUY TENDER AND MAKE BID.

3. TAIBA NOTED THE CONCERN OF THE SAG IN THE DEFICIENCIES OF THIS SYSTEM, PRINCIPALLY THAT EACH MINISTRY HAS LITTLE OR NO WAY OF CONDUCTING MORE THAN A CURSORY INVESTIGATION OF THE CONTRACTORS ASKING TO BE REGISTERED FOR A BID.

4. THE RESPONSE OF THE SAG WAS THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE FOR CONTRACTORS' CLASSIFICATION COMPOSED OF ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL FROM EACH OF THE MINISTRIES. A

STANDARD APPLICATION FORM IS BEING PRINTED AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE SOON. ADS WOULD BE PLACED IN NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE APPLICATIONS FROM THE OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS THROUGHOUT SAUDI ARABIA. FOREIGN CONTRACTORS WISHING TO PLACE A BID IN SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FILL IN AN APPLICATION WHICH WOULD, IN TURN, BE INVESTIGATED BY THE STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE. MR. TAIBA ESTIMATED THAT BY SPRING OF 1976 A BOOK WOULD BE PUBLISHED CLASSIFYING THE CONTRACTORS ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY WOULD BE QUALIFIED TO BID ON. AN UPDATED VERSION WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED PERIODICALLY AS NEW APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED.

5. ONCE THE PUBLICATION WAS PROVIDED TO THE MINISTRIES THE CONTRACTORS COULD THEN BUY A TENDER SIMPLY BY CITING THE DETAILS CONCERNING THEIR FIRM ALREADY IN PRIV. AKINS

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